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HEADQUARTERS
AIR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COMMAND

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
Andrews Air Force Base
Washington 25, D.C.



REPLY TO
ATTN OF:

RDRB

3 November 1960

SUBJECT: The Discoverer Program

TO: Memorandum for Record

1. The Under Secretary of the Air Force convened a meeting on 3 November 1960 for the purpose of reviewing the present Discoverer launch schedules and to discuss stronger methods of program control in the interests of meeting the requirements of various agencies, on matters of security, costs, and launch operations. Attached is a list of the participants at this meeting.
2. Dr. Charyk opened the meeting by announcing that his office must be directly involved in all substantive matters related to adjustments in Discoverer payloads, costs, schedules, and priorities. He stated that it is not his intention to get involved in details but that his office must be directly consulted on any changes which are desired in the Discoverer program. Specifically, he pointed out that the Commander, AFBMD, will not entertain any adjustments in the Discoverer program except as they emanate from Dr. Charyk's office. At this point Mr. Parangosky of CIA noted that originally BMD was the exclusive executive agency and that contacts directly between the Agency and BMD (with ARPA concurrence) were authorized. When Mr. Parangosky asked for a clarification of this method of operation, Dr. Charyk stated that his proposal is not intended to deteriorate this relationship but that specific adjustments on the items noted above will be processed through the SAFMS office.
3. At this point the matter of security of the program was discussed and Dr. Charyk proposed that it might be timely to consider the A program as a splendid cover for all of the Discoverer launches. There was general agreement amongst some ARPA and DOD representatives that this may be a logical suggestion. A national geodetic effort could receive general public acclaim in view of such programs as ANNA, BETTY, and SECOR. Dr. Charyk suggested an additional meeting to cover this matter more thoroughly. Considerable discussion then ensued regarding the forthcoming single bio-medical launch and Dr. Charyk emphasized the point that he does not believe that one bio-medical experiment makes sense. A more complete program involving additional launches should be considered. He was favorable to the radiometric Midas launches as presently proposed.

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4. The following launch schedules for Vandenberg launch pad Nos. 4 and 5 were displayed:

Pad 4	#	Date	Pad 5	#	Date
<u>100 pin umbilical</u>	1103	- 11/29	<u>200 pin umbilical</u>	1062	- 11/8
	1104 (A)	- 1/10		1101(R/M)	- 12/20
	1105	- 2/9		1102(R/M)	- 1/20
	1107	- 4/4		1025(Bio)	- 2/21
				1106	- 3/21

It was predicted that the first launch from pad 75-1 will occur in May of 1961. Following the 1104 launch of 10 January 1961, the remaining 3(A) launches are scheduled for June, July and August of 1961. Dr. Charyk considered that the scheduling of only one engineering and test launch (1104) of the A payload was abnormally risky and that if any difficulties ensued, rescheduling of other Discoverers would have to be accomplished prior to the operational launches in mid-1961. He again reiterated his concern that the single bio-medical launch also seemed totally inadequate.

5. After a technical briefing by Lockheed and the project personnel from BMD, Dr. Charyk concluded the meeting with the following. A thorough review of the A program and the bio-medical series must be conducted with the purpose of considering additional launches for both of these programs to improve their potential to accomplish planned objectives. The question of additional Thor boosters must also be considered. Interaction of these proposed additional launches on the C program must be studied. A review of this total problem should be accomplished within one week. In the meantime, the schedule outlined in paragraph 4 above will be adhered to pending any new decisions. The undersigned informed Dr. Charyk that ARDC would be prepared to review a new bio-medical development plan with him in approximately one week.


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